

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
District of New York

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) Case No: 21-MJ-50  
Plaintiff, )  
versus )  
Kaveh L. Afrasiabi, )  
Defendant. )

**DEFENDANT'S SECOND STATEMENT TO THE COURT AT THE STATUS HEARING ON**  
**JULY 14, 2021**

Your Excellency, Honorable Judge Edward Korman:

As a follow-up to my previous statement, I strongly condemn any attempts to silence the dissident Iranian journalists abroad. I am appalled by the recent news regarding the plot to kidnap a female Iranian journalist critical of Iran and am happy that this plot did not materialize. I have a long record in opposing censorship and defense of the rights of authors, as reflected in Mr. Salman Rushdie's praise of my efforts on his behalf in his New York Times bestseller autobiography, Joseph Anton.

<https://www.salmanrushdie.com/joseph-anton-a-memoir/>

In my novel, Shiraz Diaries and Jallad (Executioner), highly praised by the New York University Professor Peter Chelkowski, the main protagonist is a female journalist escaping her persecution to neighboring Pakistan and using her diaries to expose censorship in Iran.

<https://www.amazon.com/Shiraz-Diaries-Jallad-Novel-Contemporary/dp/1532908946>

I took personal risks by going to Tehran and interviewing the Nobel Peace winner, Shirin Ebadi, at her home under surveillance, when no one else dared to go near her.

[http://www.kavehafrasiabi.com/post\\_type\\_unpeace/](http://www.kavehafrasiabi.com/post_type_unpeace/)

The right to free speech is sacrosanct and I myself have paid a dear price for expressing political views, e.g. with respect to the need for mandatory education on the holocaust in Iran, resulting in the termination of my teaching duty at Tehran University over 15 years ago immediately after the Jerusalem Post's news story about my open letter to the Iranian president.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaveh L. Afrasiabi. Pro Se

Certificate of Copy: A true copy of this Statement has been served on the Plaintiff on this date, July 12, 2021, under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Kaveh Afrasiabi